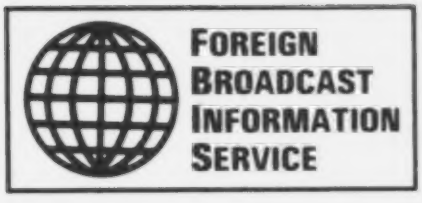

Daily Report

Latin America

FBIS-LAT-88-158
Tuesday
16 August 1988

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Cuba

Castro Tours Soviet Vessel 'Orenburg'

FL1508145488 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1145 GMT 15 Aug 88

[Text] Commander in Chief Fidel Castro Ruz, president of the Councils of State and Ministers of Cuba, received at the Port of Havana the first shipment of timber from Cuban internationalist workers in Siberia.

During his tour of the Soviet vessel "Orenburg," the leader of the Cuban revolution spoke extensively with the 31 crew members of the ship and expressed interest in the ship's features. Fidel expressed his gratitude for the gesture of solidarity by the Soviet party, government, and people. He also said that the arrival of this shipment on his birthday, 13 August, was the best gift that could have been given to him.

The ship, during a 30-day voyage, transported approximately 6,000 tons of timber, 1,000 tons of cardboard, and 50 tons of canned goods. The entire shipment came from the Urals.

The 800 Cuban internationalist workers in Siberia confirm, with this first shipment of timber, their commitment to continue working to guarantee additional shipments to Cuba.

Rodriguez on Ties With Mexico, Global Issues

PA1508152188 Mexico City EXCELSIOR in Spanish 10 Aug 88 pp 4-A, 32-A

["Part One" of report by Luis Suarez on "exclusive" interview with Vice President Carlos Rafael Rodriguez at the Cuban Embassy in Mexico City—date not given]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] [Suarez] Now, Carlos Rafael, I would like to ask you a question on Mexican-Cuban affairs. An action that has caused concern and that has been commented on here is the fact that, along with other governments and presidents, Cuban President Commander Fidel Castro sent a message to PRI candidate Carlos Salinas de Gortari—who was not yet the president-elect according to the Mexican Constitution—congratulating him on his victory in the presidential elections and heralding the victory as a new phenomenon in Mexican history and democracy. This action was questioned because the entire electoral process had not legally ended. How can you explain this?

[Rodriguez] "I must confess that although the question might be embarrassing, I feel it is necessary, and I thank you for bringing up the matter, because during my brief stay in Mexico (in fact I have been here 4 days, of which I have spent 2 and ½ to 3 days in Cocoyoc), I have sensed that feeling among the public in some sectors. You yourself have proven that my feeling is justified. Perhaps inadvertently you mentioned how the president is proclaimed in Mexico. We have only followed our principles; we have not changed the principles that have guided our policy toward Mexico since the victory of the Cuban revolution.

"A review of past practice will show that each time the Electoral College proclaimed a president-elect, he would receive a message from the Cuban president. We have done nothing different now. Waiting for the formality of the College's approval would have created a precedent. That would have been out of the ordinary, because actually on all previous occasions we had sent our message as soon as the president-elect was proclaimed by the highest electoral body. We had no reason to act differently in this case.

"We must note—and this is well known—that for the first time Mexico had two progressive candidates representing very important sectors of society. In the past, everything was easy, because choosing between the PAN [National Action Party] and PRI candidates was no problem at all. No one gave it any thought. However, as you said, a new situation prevails today. We must say that it is a known fact that in the same way as we show our respect, consideration, and friendship for Carlos Salinas de Gortari, we have respect for the Cardenas family, for Lazaro Cardenas' image in Mexico's political life, and for Cuauhtemoc, who has been and continues to be our friend. Consequently, we have done nothing different this time and could not have behaved otherwise toward these elections.

"Looking at things objectively, we believe that this historical experience will be favorable for the Mexican people, that it will give more impetus to the Mexican people. We are glad of that. However, I must insist that Cuba has done nothing different this time compared to what it has done during the past 30 years of the Cuban revolution. It did what it had to do; otherwise, it would have set a precedent. It was really not a wrong action. We do not know why other governments did the same. We imagine that each one had its own reasons. I also want to say—and this should be known—that we have not received any guidelines from the Mexican Government concerning this type of statement. We did what we thought was right. We did so consciously, and we were aware of the consequences. However, we also knew of the justified reactions that would follow if, for the first time, we departed from past policy and waited for the formal proclamation by Congress, which we all know is controlled by a majority from the ruling party. It is not hard to guess what would happen."

While the assistants, the Cuban vice president's wife, and the wife of Cuban Ambassador to Mexico Jose Fernandez del Cosio—who gave us the opportunity to meet at his house—were finishing packing, questions and answers were reeled off. I asked about the economic crisis and the terrible consequences for Third World countries. I also asked whether the seriousness of the

crisis had not diminished the usefulness of the actions and purposes of the South-South Commission, despite its recent appearance. The Cuban vice president began by saying that "economists would not agree with the description" of the situation given by the reporter because, "in reality, capitalism is not facing an economic crisis but economic stagnation."

However, he concedes that from the standpoint of the nations of the South, "the crisis is very serious, because we have been experiencing the effects of that crisis since the beginning of the 1980's." The Cuban vice president then adds that for that reason, "I would not say it is a recent crisis, but one that has developed gradually." The South-South Commission appeared in July 1987 precisely as a result of the crisis and because of "the strong need the members of the commission felt to alleviate the deep anguish and suffering of the countries of the South." Concerning the history of the South-South Commission, the Cuban vice president said that he does not believe its actions have been futile, because although it appeared recently, "it has been hard at work. It really began to take shape at this meeting in Mexico. At the meeting in Kuala Lumpur, however, we issued a very important document concerning the problem of the foreign debt."

Carlos Rafael Rodriguez said that the commission has given itself 3 years to complete its work, and he added: "Our job is not only to diagnose problems or to provide information on the Third World situation; our goal is to work on its problems." One of the commission's basic problems deals with mobilization of the South because "there is a great deal of awareness in the South, but too much division. The South is experiencing the effects of the crisis; it is trying to rid itself of these effects brought on as a result of the international situation. The international situation produces unfair effects on underdeveloped countries, a term that has disappeared; people euphemistically refer to them as developing countries."

[Suarez] What is the real situation in those countries?

[Rodriguez] "Do you remember what Fidel said: 'These are not developing countries; these are underdeveloped countries. We are going backward in our development.' That is what has happened. Over the past 10 years, we have gone backward in our development—in Latin America, particularly. Progress made in the 1970's has been described by some as spectacular. We have gone back to the levels reached in 1976; so now we have the standard of living we had in 1976, but with millions more people. In other words, the per capita ratio has plummeted violently."

[Suarez] Despite the strong influence of the South-South Commission, some have pointed out that its discussions and studies are too theoretical and academic. Does that go along with the need for practical actions and changes or the reorganization of the commission?

[Rodriguez] "I remember a funny and interesting anecdote of a Mexican intellectual. Another Mexican asked him whether he had the talent people said he had, and he answered: 'Look, you are slandered about your talent.' I believe those who say we have an intellectual character are slandering us. It is not true. We do not have a commission or commissioners for intellectuals, and we insisted on that point at the Cocoyoc meeting. The basic goal of the commission is to mobilize the people, because people are the only ones who can develop the sense of struggle we need now. We not only need government actions; we need the action of the people, who should join in and support government actions. Ours is a double language: A language addressed to both governments and peoples."

[Suarez] Therefore, the use of the South-South Commission and of any other mechanism to help reduce the problems we are facing is justified. What does Cuba recommend?

[Rodriguez] "Do you want my opinion as a disinterested observer or as a member of the commission? My viewpoint is not meant to be representative of the official Cuban position, although I cannot deny that I am a Cuban citizen and that Cuba is a part of me and shapes my personality. Nor can I deny that in the commission I, as a party member and as a government official, support ideas that are not exactly of my own making but are the ideas of an entire community. We believe that the commission should use all available means to unite the South, which is thoroughly compartmentalized at present."

[Suarez] What is the strongest evidence of that division?

[Rodriguez] "First, Latin America and Africa are deeply divided, despite their common problems. This division or rather disagreement has been observed at international meetings. For historical reasons, Africa is closely linked to the EEC. Africa's survival—to use a cliche—depends on Europe and the EEC. Latin America wants to enter the EEC, but its entry is blocked by the African nations' status as associated countries within the EEC. We must overcome these disagreements. We must unite Africa and Latin America; we must unite Africa; and we must unite Africa, Asia, and Latin America. We must also unite ourselves within our own continent and regions, because we are divided. Latin Americans have been talking about unity and coordination since Bolivar's times, but we have been unsuccessful in uniting ourselves. However, in the last few years, and thanks to the economic solidarity of Brazil, Argentina, and Uruguay, we have made significant progress. The Group of Eight's efforts proved that we are heading toward unity and the coordination of Latin American democratic forces. At the Group of Eight's meeting in Acapulco, eight Latin American presidents met for the first time without the presence of the U.S. President, who just gives orders to be obediently followed by the other presidents. It was a purely Latin American meeting. It

had a Latin American spirit, and it involved Latin America's future. That is the kind of unity that we believe should prevail in Latin America and the Third World in general."

[Suarez] It is also said that the South-South Commission diagnoses many ills but gives few suggestions for remedies. When it prescribes changes, do the industrialized countries of the North follow suit?

[Rodriguez] "The curious thing in all this is that the South-South Commission has not issued diagnoses of what is wrong but has given suggestions for change. Diagnoses comes later. We believe diagnoses are not the most important thing because there are many correct diagnoses. We know the origins of our problems, and we know that they are the international situation created by the capitalist countries and the unequal exchange terms that characterize our trade relations. That analysis may have different implications for different countries, but it is common to all three regions. It would be senseless for the South-South Commission to repeat the study done by the Brandt Commission on what goes on in the South. Everybody, including our own people, knows what the problems are. The important thing now is to mobilize with prescriptions for remedying the country's ills, although prescriptions is a very limiting word. I would rather say that what we need are not doctors to prescribe what the Third World needs, but doctors who suggest what the Third World needs, leaving it up to the individual governments and peoples to write their own prescriptions."

'Emergency Aid' Extended by UN Food Program

FL1308151088 Havana Television Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 13 Aug 88

[Text] The Cuban Government and the UN's World Food Program have signed an agreement for the latter to lend emergency aid to our country because of the rains of 31 May-5 June, which affected the central provinces. The document was signed at the offices of the State Committee for Economic Cooperation [CECE] by Ernesto Melendez Bachs, minister president of the CECE, and Mr (Constante Musio), representative of the World Food Program. The letter of understanding will make it possible to execute the emergency assistance needed because of the damage caused by the recent rains. The assistance involves a cost of more than $581,000. This includes the donation of 427 tons of wheat flour, 214 tons of edible oil, and 142 tons of beans, plus the transportation costs.

Melendez expressed appreciation for the assistance provided to Cuba.

Internationalists Decorated for Angolan Service

FL1208184788 Havana Television Cubana Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 12 Aug 88

[Excerpt] Three Cuban internationalists who completed their mission in the People's Republic of Angola were decorated with the Antonio Maceo and Camilo Cienfuegos Orders.

The ceremony was held during a function to welcome a group of students entering military education centers. Present at the event were Division General Joaquin Quintas Sola, member of the PCC Central Committee and chief of the Central Army, as well as other FAR chiefs and officials.

During the ceremony, which was held at the Camilo Cienfuegos military school in Matanzas, Lieutenant Colonel Ciro Gomez Betancourt was decorated with the Antonio Maceo Order. Soldiers (Mario Figueroa Portumene) and Alberto Aguila Abreu were decorated with the Camilo Cienfuegos Order.

These awards are in recognition of the merits of these combatants while fighting alongside the Angolan Armed Forces in the defense of the territorial integrity of that brother country. [passage omitted]

Antigua and Barbuda

General Secretary of Trade, Labor Union Resigns

FL1208164888 Bridgetown CANA in English 1421 GMT 12 Aug 88

[Text] St. John's, Antigua, Aug 12, CANA—The outspoken general secretary of the government-aligned Antigua Trade and Labour Union (ATLU), Bascus, has announced his resignation for health reasons.

Bascus, writing in the weekly WORKERS VOICE newspaper here, said he has informed the ATLU executive that he will not be seeking re-election when the union holds its annual conference in September. Bascus, a government senator, said, however, he would be willing to continue in parliament as long as the prime minister wanted him to.

In his regular column, "Frankly Speaking" in the ATLU organ, Bascus said he was suffering from severe stress which has led to hypertension and he had been advised by his physician "to seek a less stressful occupation or pay the penalty."

Senator Bascus, who took up the position as ATLU's general secretary in 1982, said he will be avoiding all industrial relations matters as well as politics until his health problems were "completely over."

"I'm satisfied that I have done my best for the workers and the union," Bascus said.

Well-placed sources here have indicated that cabinet members of the Vere Bird administration were still trying to persuade Bascus to stay on until elections are called. Elections are constitutionally due here by April next year.

St Vincent and the Grenadines

Mixed Commission To Review Ties With France

FL1208164988 Bridgetown CANA in English 2255 GMT 11 Aug 88

[Text] Kingston, St Vincent, Aug 11, CANA—St Vincent and the Grenadines and France have established a mixed commission to review relations between the two countries and to monitor projects being implemented here with French funding. The commission will comprise agovernment minister from each of the countries and the appropriate officials.Prime Minister James Mitchell, who announced the establishment of the commission at a news conference to report on his recent visit to France and Luxembourg, said: "It will be a question of developing relations as you go along and deciding what you want to do."

An agreement establishing the commission was signed in France and the commission's next meeting is scheduled for St Vincent and the Grenadines in two years time.

Electoral College Installed; To Meet 18 Aug

PA1508214088 Mexico City Red Nacional 13 Inevision Television in Spanish 1955 GMT 15 Aug 88

[Report by Judith Alamo]

[Text] After the installation of the Chamber of Senators' Electoral College, which is the final recourse to review the electoral process, college President Oscar Ramirez Mijares committed himself to scrupulously and permanently respecting the sovereign will of the people expressed in the elections with exemplary legality and patriotism.

With a quorum of 57 elected [presuntos] senators, the meeting to install the Electoral College of the 54th legislature was opened at 1000 sharp today. As president of the installation committee, Senator Eliodoro Hernandez Loza called on all to ensure that political maturity and respect for institutions and the law prevails to maintain an orderly and harmonious coexistance.

Before that, the Electoral College Directorate was elected. By a secret vote, Oscar Ramirez Mijares was unanimously elected president and Carlos Jonguitud was elected vice president. The Directorate was sworn in at 1040.

Electoral College President Ramirez Mijares praised outgoing senators for their efforts for the country. After a short recess, members of the two commissions that will review and make final unappealable decisions based on electoral documents sent by state congresses were elected.

The first commission will be headed by Luis Donaldo Colosio Murrieta and the second by Blas Chumacero. The Electoral College will meet for the first time next Thursday.

Further on Installation

FL1608031988 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 2147 GMT 15 Aug 88

[Text] Mexico City, 15 Aug (NOTIMEX)—The sovereign will of the Mexican people expressed on 6 July will be invariably and carefully respected. This was said by presumed Senator-Elect Oscar Ramirez Mijares at the opening of the 54th Mexican legislature.

He added that the discussions which will take place in the Senate will be held in an atmosphere of peace and harmony for the benefit of the nation.

Ramirez Mijares, who will chair the Electoral College, told the 60 possible members of this chamber that the debate will be held with an absolute respect for the parties and political tendencies which are represented here so that the truth can be found in each case.

He invited the presumed senators to behave according to people's expectations and to rise to their political sensibility and undeniable talent. He noted that the Senate will take firm steps for the strengthening of the nation's political life in a meeting for democracy within the legal and patriotic framework.

Ramirez Mijares expressed his appreciation for being elected to chair the sessions. He received the votes of 60 possible members of the Senate at the 54th and 55th legislature of the Congress, including the votes of representatives of opposition political parties. He acknowledged that the difficult situation the country is going through will stimulate the efforts to serve and support the most needy classes, as the government is doing.

Regarding the present acting senators, he said the Mexican people will know how to acknowledge all their efforts with the patriotism with which they have carried out their constitutional responsibilities and their contribution to the development of Mexico.

The Electoral College was officially installed during the preparatory meeting which was chaired by Senator Eliodoro Hernandez Loza. Gonzalo Rodriguez and Genoveva Rodriguez de Marquez acted as secretaries.

Carlos Jonguitud Barrios was elected vice president of the board of directors and Meximiliano Filerio Esparza and Alonso Aguirre Ramos were elected secretaries.

For his part, Senator Eliodoro Hernandez Loza, chairman of the preparatory meeting, confirmed that the Mexicans believe in institutions rather than personalities. He added that the legislators did not act automatically but with the soundness of the political and social pacts and with party consciousness and militancy. This will not keep them from fulfilling the functions provided for by the Magna Carta.

The members of the two commissions that will examine the electoral records were named after the Electoral College was installed. The records were sent by the congresses of the states for their unappealable ruling.

The first commission was composed of presumed Senators-Elect Luis Donaldo Colosio Murrieta, Julio Patino Rodriguez, Jesus Rodriguez y Rodriguez, Mario Niebla Alvarez, and Enrique Burgos Garcia, who will rule on the rest of the members of the Electoral College. The second commission was composed by presumed Senators-Elect Blas Chumacero, Blanca Esponda de Torres, and Roberto Madrazo Pintado, who will only examine the records of members of the first commission.

Before the preparatory meeting ended, Emilio Gonzalez, coordinator of the PRI faction, and other presumed legislators, were named to form a commission to escort the just-installed commission to the meeting hall's doors. The meeting was adjourned and the next one was called for Thursday, 18 August, at 1000.

Outbreaks of Violence Noted

PA1508225888 Paris AFP in Spanish 2100 GMT 15 Aug 88

[Report by Marcelo Galan]

[Excerpts] Mexico City, 15 Aug (AFP)—Constant outbreaks of violence and tension prevailed as a result of the installation today of the Electoral College at the Mexican Congress, which will issue rulings [calificara] on the 6 July elections in the face of a strong center-leftist opposition that is rejecting victory claims by the ruling party.

Over the next 15 days, the Electoral College, which is composed of elected [presuntos] deputies and senators whose cases have already been approved by the Federal Electoral Commission and a special tribunal, is tasked with legitimizing each of the 500 seats in the Chamber of Deputies and 64 in the Chamber of Senators.

It is also tasked with issuing a ruling on the victory claimed by Carlos Salinas, presidential hopeful of the ruling PRI, a victory that is being rejected by Cuauhtemoc Cardenas, a PRI dissident who was nominated by the center-leftist National Democratic Front (FDN) alliance.

Since early today, a large FDN group has gathered in the area leading to the Congress building, a gathering that has become a massive meeting of people who have shouted slogans against the government and the party that has ruled for the past 60 years, as each elected [presuntos] deputy walked past.

While shouting "Cardenas, president," some 5,000 people occupied the area until a group of women identifying themselves as PRI activists arrived at the main door and started to shout pro-Salinas slogans.

The first outbreaks of violence started at this point. [passage omitted]

A promise by opposition parties not to interrupt the installation of the Electoral College precluded the presence of soldiers and policemen but not the discreet presence of troops in civilian clothes, who managed to calm FDN sympathizers, who in turn expelled the government supporters. [passage omitted]

Installation Termed 'Stormy'

FL1608041588 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 0051 GMT 16 Aug 88

[Text] Mexico City, 15 Aug (NOTIMEX)—The ruling PRI is open to dialogue and negotiation but it is not willing to forget its legitimate and unrelinquishable situation of parliamentary majority in Mexico. This was said by the presumed PRI Deputy Socorro Diaz Palacios.

As the Chamber of Deputies' Electoral College was installed—with 470 presumed legislators in attendance—Diaz Palacios added that Mexico's new political situation requires a shared responsibility by all political parties. We have to be able to know how to tell our truths and to listen to others' truths.

The presumed PRI deputy said that only by knowing how to listen will it be possible to live in peace and be faithful to the mandate of the Mexican people.

The session to install the Electoral College was stormy and much longer than planned because minority party members insisted on speaking. During the meeting it was acknowledged that there were holes in the internal regulations of Congress.

The Electoral College Directorate was elected without the participation of minority parties which refused to agree with the decisions made by the PRI.

Juan Jose Osorio Palacios, presumed deputy for the labor sector, and Augusto Gomez Villanueva, presumed deputy for the peasant sector, were elected by the PRI majority as president and vice president of the Electoral College, respectively. Jose Murat, Ismael Orozco, Maria Albertina Mendoza, and Jesus Armando Hernandez were elected secretaries.

During the installation of the Electoral College, Socrates Rizzo Garcia, chairman of the installing commission, refused to grant the floor on three occasions—based on the regulations—to three presumed legislators of the Cardenist Front, who attempted to address the audience before the Chamber of Deputies' certifying body was installed.

This prompted several recesses among various parliamentary factions until it was agreed by the various factions that Rafael Aguilar Talamantes would speak on behalf of the Cardenist group, Federico Ruiz Lopez for the PAN [National Action Party], and Socorro Diaz Palacios for the PRI.

Violence began to erupt during the beginning of the Electoral College installation. A series of verbal attacks and insults took place between the representatives of the PRI majority and the left-wing parliamentary opposition factions.

However, the argument was toned down after representatives of the left, the PRI, and the right were given a chance to speak although it started again when the voting began to elect the three certifying commissions that will determine who will be the presumed 500 deputies to compose the 54th legislature of the Chamber of Deputies.

Thousands Protest 'Electoral Fraud' Nationwide

PA1508142188 Paris AFP in Spanish 2046 GMT 14 Aug 88

[Text] Mexico City, 14 Aug (AFP)—Thousands of supporters of the opposition parties today held demonstrations throughout the country to "repudiate the electoral

fraud," to protest the alleged victory of Carlos Salinas, presidential candidate of the ruling PRI, and to request the annulment of the elections.

More than 10,000 members of the conservative National Action Party (PAN), led by presidential candidate Manuel Clouthier, gathered around Mexico City's Column of Independence to chant antigovernment slogans and to request that President Miguel de la Madrid annul the 6 July elections and turn over power to a provisional president on 1 December.

Meanwhile, the followers of the center-left National Democratic Front (FDN) marched in hundreds of cities in the interior and the nation's capital to stage similar protests.

In Juchitan, Oaxaca State, 500 km southeast of the capital, FDN presidential candidate Cuauhtemoc Cardenas said the parties that support his candidacy and his followers "will exert a great amount of pressure through popular mobilization to forcibly bring about respect for the election results."

Cardenas called on citizens to turn off their lights for 15 minutes every night from 15 to 31 August as a means of pressuring the Electoral College, which will determine the results of the elections for president, deputies, and senators.

On Monday, FDN members will set up a permanent camp in front of the Legislative Palace to continue the protests.

According to figures released by the Federal Electoral Commission (CFE), Salinas won the elections with 50.36 percent of the vote, followed by Cardenas with 31 percent, and Clouthier with 17 percent. However, the two opposition candidates claim that the PRI candidate's alleged victory is based on fraudulent maneuvers to increase the number of votes he received.

The CFE's figures must still be confirmed by the Electoral College, which is comprised of the deputies elected on 6 July, after which Salinas could be officially declared president-elect.

On Saturday night, the CFE ended its analysis of the election of deputies and presented certifications of victory to 260 PRI representatives, 132 from the FDN, and 95 from the PAN. The 13 other seats must be discussed by the Electoral College, but they will probably be granted to opposition candidates because their parties were the ones that challenged the alleged victories of PRI candidates.

In the Senate, the PRI won 60 of the 64 seats being contested, leaving the 4 other seats to FDN candidates.

During this morning's demonstration, Clouthier said that "President de la Madrid is obligated" to annul the 6 July elections and turn over power to a provisional president, who should call for new elections immediately after 1 December.

On their part, Cardenas and his followers—who issued the same message in demonstrations held throughout the country—said that the elections cannot be declared legal because the CFE has yet to release the results of 24,000 of the 54,000 voting booths set up on the day of the election, as the law stipulates.

PRI Secretary General on Opposition Claims

PA1508013888 Mexico City XEW Television Network in Spanish 1300 GMT 13 Aug 88

[Text] PRI Secretary General Manuel Camacho Solis has said his party will neither negotiate the votes received in the general election nor the people's will. He asserted that his party will not let any irregularity remain legally unclear.

Camacho Solis stressed that at this time confrontations with other parties could increase, but he admitted there is a possibility of reaching agreements that take public opinion into account.

Camacho Solis made those statements during the so-called people's call for national victory day ceremony presided over by Carlos Salinas de Gortari. Camacho Solis said the certificate of electoral results [actas] will be the first point of discussion by the PRI at the next electoral college meeting. That decision also applies to all other political parties and could be the first agreement reached by PRI and the other parties.

The PRI secretary general added that the fulfillment of the resolutions issued by the appropriate organizations must be part of a committment accepted by all parties.

Manuel Camacho Solis stressed that if the opposition political parties intend to clarify things, they must give up their request to invalidate the election because of isolated, individual incidents.

Communique Rejects Charges

PA1508044288 Mexico City UNOMASUNO in Spanish 10 Aug 88 pp 1, 8

[Article by Bernardo Gonzalez Solano: "PRI Says Ibarra, Cuauhtemoc, Clouthier Are Lying"]

[Excerpt] The PRI Executive Committee has issued an official communique expressing its vigorous rejection of the recent statements made by the National Action Party, the National Democratic Front, and the Revolutionary Workers Party presidential candidates because "they are not struggling for democracy but are seeking a confrontation." Contrary to the democratic spirit and

the legality they claim to defend, they have adopted an authoritarian position, which intends to violate the law and ignore the will of the majority of Mexicans.

The 4-page communique asserts that in view of the lack of absolute proof to support their statements and their appeal to the appropriate authorities, the three presidential candidates Manuel J. Clouthier, Rosario Ibarra de Piedra, and Cuauhtemoc Cardenas Solorzano have again resorted to an argument that uses lies and veiled threats of violence.

The document states that the PRI again calls on all political parties to act with the civic and political maturity shown by the Mexican people on 6 July, and for that reason the PRI honors the commitment constitutionally made to the people.

The communique says the opposition has tried to confuse public opinion with groundless arguments and that it has taken the road of provocation in its determination to alter public order. The PRI asserts that for that reason, the opposition does not and will not have the support of the Mexican masses, who are well aware of the dangers of political adventurism.

The PRI communique states that on 6 July the Mexican people, however, peacefully and orderly voted for an institutional change and for the strenghtening of multipartyism, institutionalized political competition, and the mainienance of the legal state and social peace.

The communique says the figures are clear. The PRI and its presidential candidate got most of the votes, while the opposition candidates adopted a dishonest political attitude when they acknowledged "the legality of the elections in those places where their parties von and denied it in those places where they lost." [passage omitted]

Economic Solidarity Pact Extended for 3 Months

PA1508170988 Mexico City XEW Television Network in Spanish 1300 GMT 15 Aug 88

[Report by Regina Aguirre]

[Text] The Economic Solidarity Pact will remain in force during September, October, and November. This was decided by worker, peasant, business, and federal government representatives at a meeting chaired by President Miguel de la Madrid at the Presidential Palace. The representatives agreed to the following:

1. There will be no price increase in public sector goods and services.

2. The peso-dollar exchange rate will remain unchanged.

3. The value-added tax on processed foods and medicines, currently taxed at 6 percent, will be eliminated.

4. Income tax will be reduced 30 percent for those earning the equivalent of four times Mexico City's minimum wage.

5. FONACOT [the national fund for development and guarantee of consumption by workers] will double its activities.

6. Current minimum wages will be maintained.

7. There will be a 3-percent price reduction on all merchandise, with a special effort made to further reduce food and clothing prices.

8. Subsidy prices will be fixed for basic products within 15 days after the signing of these agreements.

9. There will be a program of special incentives to counter differences in regional farm production, which affect farmers' income.

Salinas Installs PRI Planning Commissions

PA1108220088 Mexico City Red Nacional 13 Imevision Television in Spanish 2010 GMT 11 Aug 88

[Report by Alfonso Gomez]

[Text] Carlos Salinas de Gortari today installed the 32 PRI commissions in charge of preparing the 1988-94 government program. Respectful of constitutional guidelines, Carlos Salinas de Gortari announced that he must wait until the Chamber of Deputies issues a ruling on the presidential elections before he can finalize his government program. Salinas de Gortari said this after announcing the organization of the 32 commissions in charge of preparing the 1988-94 government program.

The victorious PRI presidential candidate said that the Mexican people have embarked on the road toward a superior democratic regime. His message was directed toward the nation, political parties, and their leaders.

[Begin Salinas de Gortari recording] We have embarked on the road toward a superior democracy and, therefore, we—the majorities and minorities—must work together with tolerance and respect. The elections have taken place and the Mexican people have recognized that it was an exceptional and historical electoral process. [end recording]

Upon installing the working commission, Salinas de Gortari pledged to participate in an open, sincere, and unlimited national dialogue. He recognized that political disputes, internal divisions, and demands are the result of a crisis that has lasted for many years. He said that fortunately the law and democracy have prevailed and that this will allow us to settle our political differences.

Costa Rica

Civil Police, Contras Clash Near Border

PA1408200388 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 0100 GMT 14 Aug 88

[Text] This afternoon there was a clash between Nicaraguan contras and the Civil Police in Costa Rica's northern region. According to reports, a group of Nicaraguan insurgents who were on Costa Rican soil opened rifle fire on the Costa Ricans when they ordered them to identify themselves. No Costa Ricans were wounded. Here is a report by journalist Carlos Jimenez, press chief of the Public Security Ministry:

[Begin recording] At 1300, a 40-member Civil Police reconnaissance patrol stationed in the Atlantic Command found a group of counterrevolutionaries 2 km from the San Juan River in the place known as Remolino Grande. Lieutenant Braulio Alvarado Amador, the head of the patrol, immediately asked the foreigners to identify themselves, but they replied by opening fire with AK-47, M-14, and M-16 rifles.

The contras even used 81-mm mortars in the 15-minute clash. Acting heroically and courageously, at no time did the Civil Police turn back; instead, they fired back from defensive positions. We are trying to confirm the death of one contra. According to preliminary reports, the contras dragged the body away and hid it in the area. The patrol also captured two of the contras.

We must also report that the Civil Police rescued a Nicaraguan woman who had been kidnapped by the contras 48 hours ago. The contras had entered the house where she lived with her 21-year-old Nicaraguan companion to try to urge him to join their struggle. He refused to do so and left to report this to the Civil Police at the mouth of the Sarapiqui River. When he returned, Virginia Lopez Taleno was missing. This afternoon the Civil Police were able to rescue her.

We must stress that none of the Civil Police patrolmen was wounded.

When he learned of the incident, Public Security Minister Hernan Garron Salazar ordered Civil Police Director Juan Felix Barrantes to go to the site of the clash at Remolino Grande, 2 km from the border, with a patrol to find out all the details. At this time, Barrantes is already near the site of the clash and will be returning to San Jose tomorrow afternoon to present his report to the minister. [end recording]

Police End Operation

PA1508234688 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2050 GMT 15 Aug 88

[Excerpt] San Jose, 15 Aug (ACAN-EFE)—Today Costa Rican police ended an operation at the Nicaraguan border, site of a clash with anti-Sandinists 2 days ago that resulted in the death of one "contra" and the arrest of two others. They were unable to find the other Nicaraguan rebels.

Civil Police Director General Juan Felix Barrantes, who headed the operation, said it is presumed that the more than 40 "contras" who are believed to have been among this group crossed the border and entered Nicaraguan territory.

Costa Rica's Security Minister Hernan Garron preferred not to comment until there is a more detailed report on the incident. However, he said it is possible that the group is made up of the same people who have issued threats and committed crimes in the Nicaraguan border area this year. [passage omitted]

El Salvador

Refugees Denied Entry Due to U.S. Contingent

PA1408201088 Paris AFP in Spanish 1853 GMT 14 Aug 88

[By AFP special correspondent Carlos Mario Marquez]

[Excerpt] El Poy, El Salvador, 14 Aug (AFP)—More than 1,000 Salvadoran refugees who were hoping to return to their country on Saturday are still at the El Poy post on the Honduran border because Napoleon Duarte's government has barred entry to U.S. religious leaders accompanying them.

A total of 1,230 Salvadoran refugees, most of them less than 12 years old, left the Honduran camp at Mesa Grande, some 40 km from El Poy, early Saturday morning in 38 buses and 118 trucks. However, they all had to spend the night on the Honduran side of the border, since Salvadoran authorities oppose the entry of the foreigners who are accompanying them to guarantee their safety.

This morning Interior Minister Edgar Belloso went to El Poy to reiterate to the refugees that the Salvadoran Government has decided "not to allow the entry of the foreigners," who are U.S. religious leaders and directors of the "Going Home" program.

The repatriates have said that the presence of the religious leaders "is our only guarantee of safety once we return to Salvadoran territory." [passage omitted]

Refugees Enter Country

PA1508021688 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0115 GMT 15 Aug 88

[Excerpts] San Salvador, 14 Aug (ACAN-EFE)—Today Salvadoran Immigration Department sources reported that the more than 1,300 Salvadoran refugees who decided to return home after more than 8 years in Honduras began crossing into El Salvador this afternoon after reaching an agreement with the Army.

Referring to democracy, Salinas de Gortari issued an invitation to all citizens, not only PRI activists, to contribute the necessary effort to help prepare the government program. He also asserted that all must participate with an open and pluralistic attitude. We will listen to what everyone has to say and their proposals will be taken into consideration, he said. Salinas de Gortari added that the nation needs everyone's efforts, that the people demand just and democratic changes, and that a permanent defense of our sovereignty, liberty, and constitutional order is urgently needed.

PRI National Executive Committee Appointments

PA1508125388 Mexico City EL DIA in Spanish 10 Aug 88 p 1

[Text] Yesterday the PRI National Executive Committee [CEN] made the following appointments:

Jose Carreno Carion, secretary of ideological information
Tulio Hernandez, president of the Convention Coordinating Commission
Ignacio Valdes Torres, president of the National Commission of Information and Evaluation
Silvia Hernandez, assistant secretary of coordination with political associations
Carlos Rojas Gutierrez, secretary of pomotion and planning
David Jimenez Gonzalez, director of legal affairs
Leonardo Femat Ramirez, assistant secretary of the CEN presidency
Juan Maldonado Pereda, assistant regional secretary
Jose Eduardo Beltran, assistant deputy secretary general
Rodolfo Menendez Menendez, assistant deputy secretary general
Miguel Angel Davila Mendoza, assistant secretary for support to the CEPES [Center for Political, Economic, and Social Studies] at the IEPES [Institute for Political, Economic, and Social Studies]
Maria Emilia Farias Mackey, deputy secretary of organization
Janitzio Mugica Rodriguez Cabo, deputy secretary of promotion and planning
Guillermo Tamez Lopez Ostolaza, coordinator of follow up and actions

These decisions are part of the internal reorganization process currently under way.

Briefs

Agricultural Trade Surplus

Carlos Vidali Carbajal, director of international affairs of the Secretariat of Agriculture and Water Resources, announced that Mexico's agricultural trade balance realized a surplus of $550 million during the first 5 months of 1988. [Summary] [*PA1408181588 Mexico City UNOMASUNO in Spanish 7 Aug 88 pp 1, 15*]

A spokesman at the El Poy border post, north of San Salvador, said that the refugees, with their belongings, are traveling in more than 38 buses and 120 trucks and that they began to cross the border at 1630 (2230 GMT).

Roberto Martinez, representative in El Salvador of the United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Refugees, said the refugees would reach their destination tonight. The refugees are headed for Teocinte and San Antonio Los Ranchos in the northern Chalatenango Department.

The refugees left the Mesa Grande camp, near the Salvadoran border, on Saturday. However, the Salvadoran Army did not allow them to cross the border.

According to Army spokesmen, the refugees could enter the country, but the more than 20 U.S. clergymen who accompanied them on their journey would have to remain in Honduras. [passage omitted]

According to the Immigration Department sources, this afternoon the refugees and the Army reached an agreement. It was agreed that the Salvadorans would cross the border while the U.S. clergymen would remain in Honduras.

It was learned that the clergymen, who traveled to Honduras to accompany the refugees on their journey back to El Salvador, will return to Tegucigalpa and from there will go to the United States. [passage omitted]

Guatemala

Defense Minister on Belize Relations, Rebels

PA1408171388 Guatemala City EL GRAFICO in Spanish 12 Aug 88 p 3

[Text] Belize, which up until 10 years ago was considered a "high national priority," now constitutes an issue requiring dialogue. The Guatemalan Army must go along with the foreign policy as ordered by the president, in this case Cerezo Arevalo.

[Defense Minister General Hector] Gramajo has categorically denied that last month British troops entered Guatemalan territory in search of compatriots.

Gen Gramajo, revealing something that until now had been kept a secret, said that Guatemalan and British officers maintain constant contact.

At least once a month in Santo Tomas de Castilla—where naval headquarters are located—Puerto Barrios in Izabal, or Santa Elena in El Peten, Guatemalan and British officers meet to study the border situation.

Through these relations (which Gen Gramajo compared to the relationship between a man and his mistress), peace and tranquillity have been maintained on the border, rendering confrontations unjustifiable and unnecessary.

Gen Gramajo also spoke of the Guatemalan guerrillas. He explained that the rebel forces are in disarray. He added that we are in the final phase of the war and that the rebels have shown themselves to be criminal groups that flee from the military.

Gramajo said he believes that within a short period of time the guerrilla problem will finally be resolved.

Honduras

Government on Nicaraguan Security Force Plan

PA1508230488 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2155 GMT 15 Aug 88

[Excerpt] Tegucigalpa, 15 Aug (ACAN-EFE)—Today Honduras said that Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega's announcement that Nicaragua is willing to accept an international force to guarantee security at the Nicaraguan-Honduran border is in response to a Honduran proposal to the OAS.

In an official note, the Foreign Ministry said Honduras made a proposal to the OAS on 12 November 1987 calling for the creation of an international security commission on its borders with El Salvador and Nicaragua to supervise the area and report any attack on Honduran nationals and territory.

The commission would also be responsible for preventing armed men from entering Honduras from El Salvador or Nicaragua.

The proposal also "called for the disarmament and detention of Salvadoran and Nicaraguan armed rebels in Honduran territory and preventing the use of Honduran territory for military purposes."

"The creation of an international commission is indissolubly linked to Nicaragua's compliance with its commitment at the fifth Executive Commission meeting of 7 April of this year. That is, that it will withdraw its suit against Honduras at the International Court of Justice and emphasize [the establishment of] the territorial enclaves that the Nicaraguan Government has negotiated with the Nicaraguan Resistance," the short note added. [passage omitted].

Regalado on Esquipulas, Destabilization
PA1508233488 Tegucigalpa Voz de Honduras in Spanish 1120 GMT 13 Aug 88

["Exclusive" interview with Armed Forces Commander General Humberto Regalado Hernandez by reporter Juan Bautista Sanchez; date and place not given—recorded]

[Excerpts] [Sanchez] General, 18 months after you were appointed chief of the Honduran Armed Forces, are you pleased with the work you have done?

[Regalado] I am not pleased because our work is based on plans, and according to those plans, as we reach our planned goals, we set new goals. Therefore, ours is a permanent job. The job of planning for the Armed Forces' development is also a permanent task.

[Sanchez] General, one of the basic concerns of the Armed Forces has been the struggle against drug trafficking, which in this case has been [words indistinct]. What can you tell people about this?

[Regalado] That we are being successful. If you look at the Armed Forces' actions and joint efforts, we have been successful. If we continue, I believe that with the people's cooperation our actions could be more obvious. [passage omitted]

[Sanchez] General, regarding the Central American situation, the Esquipulas II peace process is at a virtual stalemate. Do you believe this process is over, or can it be revived and continue with the goal of achieving lasting peace in the area?

[Regalado] I believe the [Esquipulas] document is great. The situation, rather the difficulties, are that this is a document that was signed in good faith. Moreover, I believe Central American presidents want to comply with the Esquipulas II plan. Logically, Nicaragua does not have good faith, which is where the difficulties lie, although Nicaragua is always making accusations against the other Central American countries.

[Sanchez] Do you believe we should learn to coexist with the Sandinists, or do you think Nicaragua will become democratized?

[Regalado] Well, I think the Honduran people have already chosen their way of life and their political system. I believe we—the Armed Forces and the Honduran people—do not think the Nicaraguan communist system is the system for resolving Honduras' problems. Therefore, I think Nicaraguans should seek democratization by all means, to reach and return to the center of development they used to be, even though Nicaragua was ruled by a military dictatorship. Nevertheless, I believe the good things of the past could be brought back so all Nicaraguan political, social, and economic problems could be resolved.

[Sanchez] General, on the domestic scene, you said last February that the Armed Forces had learned about plans to destabilize our country's democratic process. Do you think your charges have motivated enemies of democracy to abstain from carrying out such plans?

[Regalado] Well, I do not dare give my opinion on this matter. However, I can tell you that recently a Cinchonero commander issued a statement in Nicaragua threatening that they are preparing their people to start the armed struggle in Honduras.

[Sanchez] What can Hondurans expect from the Armed Forces in view of this threat?

[Regalado] Well, you have been able to see it during the celebration of the Special Forces' 1st Battalion anniversary. We are training and preparing each day to provide security for our Honduran citizens.

[Sanchez] General, do the Armed Forces continue to support the government of the Republic?

[Regalado] Completely. I believe we should not let this sort of disinformation go any further. This is a very delicate issue. I said it in my speech: We should find the formula to unite the Honduran people to face the social problems; we are still have time to resolve them. Tomorrow, it could be too late. You newsmen can see which movements are permament; some have good intentions, some evil. You would be surprised to find out that some of them are coordinated at the Central American level. [passage omitted]

Nicaragua

D'Escoto on Visit to Panama, U.S. Policy
PA1408145988 Panama City MATUTINO in Spanish 12 Aug 88 pp 2, 8

[Article by Roberto R. Rodriguez]

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] Summarizing his visit to Panama, Nicaraguan Foreign Minister Miguel D'Escoto described to MATUTINO the "solidarity and love" the Nicaraguan people feel toward Panamanians because of "Panama's heroism and its defense of its right to self-determination."

At the airport before boarding a modern Soviet jet airplane, D'Escoto stated emphatically that Nicaragua "will not surrender or abandon its principles" as a result of the U.S. policy of "terrorism and murder" against Nicaragua.

D'Escoto said that there is a war going on in Nicaragua, that it is being waged by President Reagan's government, and that "there will be peace" when the U.S. Government decides to discontinue its policy.

"We are not going to surrender," said D'Escoto, demanding that the United States desist in its plans and its belligerent policy, which has so often been reaffirmed by President Ronald Reagan. [passage omitted]

The Nicaraguan delegation headed by President Ortega and his foreign minister left at 0715 yesterday, 11 August, for Quito, where Rodrigo Borja's administration will reestablish diplomatic relations severed 3 years ago.

Obando y Bravo Urges Hard Work To Achieve Peace
PA1408161188 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSKL in Spanish 1730 GMT 13 Aug 88

[Report by Leo Ramirez]

[Excerpt] Today Managua's Cardinal Miguel Obando y Bravo, who is in San Salvador Department, said in Santa Tecla that some steps have been taken for the complete realization of the Esquipulas II Central American peace process. However, he added that the most important part has yet to be realized.

One year after the signing of Esquipulas II in Guatemala City, some political observers are saying that the peace plan is dead. However, Obando y Bravo said that we must work hard to realize this plan in order to bring peace to Central America, which has been convulsed by violence over the past few years.

[Begin Obando y Bravo recording] There is no doubt that some progress has been made with regard to Esquipulas II. However, I believe that the most important part has yet to be realized—that is, democratization, a permanent cease-fire, and the broadest possible amnesty. So far only some 100 people have received amnesty. I believe that the reconciliation achieved to date leaves much to be desired. There is no doubt that the situation has become more tense due to the incidents in Nandaime, where some political leaders were jailed.

We are demanding the release of some prisoners held by the [Nicaraguan] Resistance, and let us hope that the (?36) prisoners being held by the Resistance and the prisoners held in Nicaraguan jails will be granted their freedom in order to bring peace and tranquillity to Nicaragua. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Tanzania's Nyerere Arrives for 5-Day Visit
PA1408161888 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1930 GMT 12 Aug 88

[Text] Today former Tanzanian President Julius Nyerere, who arrived in Managua last night for a 5-day visit, placed a floral wreath at the mausoleum of Commander Carlos Fonseca, leader of the revolution. He then met with Commander Henry Ruiz, foreign cooperation minister. Shortly before meeting with Commander Ruiz, the distinguished African visitor spoke to the press. [passage indistinct including recorded passage]

Receives Sandino Order
PA1408202088 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1200 GMT 13 Aug 88

[Excerpts] Yesterday, in his first appearance before the Nicaraguan media, Julius Nyerere, leader of the Chama Cha Mapinduzi [Revolutionary Party of Tanzania], said that the main problem of the Tanzanian economy is a lack of foreign exchange with which to purchase raw materials and meet the people's basic needs. [passage omitted]

Nyerere said that he is visiting Nicaragua to demonstrate solidarity with the Nicaraguan people and as an open sign of opposition to imperialism. He is in Nicaragua in his capacity as chairman of the South-South Commission. [passage omitted]

Last night Nyerere, former Tanzanian president, was decorated by the Nicaraguan Government with the Augusto C. Sandino Order in its highest degree: the Battle of San Jacinto. This is the highest decoration awarded to world figures to honor their outstanding political and social achievements.

The decoration ceremony was held at the Olof Palme Convention Center with President Daniel Ortega, Commanders Luis Carrion and Bayardo Arce, diplomats, and Foreign Ministry representatives in attendance. [passage omitted]

Honduran Soldiers Enter, Urge Miskitos To Move
PA1408143788 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1930 GMT 12 Aug 88

[Text] Honduran Army soldiers have entered Nicaraguan territory through the Atlantic coast's northern area to persuade Miskito Indians to return to Honduras' Mosquitia region where they supposedly will be given land and housing.

The regional peace commission—which is working on the repatriation of Nicaraguans who in recent years went to Honduras for political reasons—charged that the Honduran soldiers belong to the Rus Rus base and that they entered as far as the communities of San Jeronimo, San Alberto, Waspuk, Wiwinak, and (Kikril). According to area residents, the soldiers said that the American friends, the American friends [repeats himself] have food, clothing, kitchen utensils, radios, and U.S.-imported watches for Nicaraguan Indians entering the Honduran Mosquitia region.

In the past 3 years, approximately 29,000 Miskitos and residents of the northern Atlantic region have returned to their places of origin in accordance with a repatriation plan formulated by the UN High Commissioner for Refugees, UNHCR.

Army Reports 5 Contras Killed, Materiel Seized

PA1308021988 Managua EL NUEVO DIARIO in Spanish 11 Aug 88 p 12

[Text] Juigalpa—The EPS public relations office in the Fifth Region has reported that WSednesday the EPS killed five contras and seized war materiel during an operation in Boca Azul, Cara de Mono area.

The materiel seized from the contras includes four AK rifles, one FAL rifle, an M-16 rifle, a pistol, and three knapsacks, the official report said.

Briefs

USSR Fishing Boat Donation

Corinto—Four 4-ton Soviet-made fishing boats fitted with engines arrived in Corinto on 9 August. The boats, earmarked for the Nicaraguan Institute of Fisheries, will be used by cooperatives in the Atlantic region. [Summary] [*PA1608040488 Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 13 Aug 88 p 2*]

Panama

Ritter Says U.S. Trying To 'Abrogate' Treaties

PA1508154888 Panama City CRITICA in Spanish 15 Aug 88 pp 1, 19

[Text] Panama City, 14 Aug (DPA)—Today Panamanian Foreign Minister Jorge Eduardo Ritter charged that the United States is trying to ignore the Torrijos-Carter treaties that establish that control of the interoceanic waterway will pass to Panamanian hands on 31 December 1999.

"The impression that we Panamanians have had for a long time is that the United States clearly and unabashedly is seeking to abrogate the canal treaties. As time passes, the United States makes more and more evident its marked interest in ignoring the treaties," the Panamanian foreign minister said.

He added that "the campaign launched by the United States against Panama has the basic objective of abrogating the treaties signed on 7 September 1977 by the late General Omar Torrijos Herrera and former U.S. President Jimmy Carter."

For his part, Carlos Ozores Typaldos, Panamanian representative to the Panama Canal Commission Board, described the U.S. desire as "irresponsible," adding that the U.S. Senate will have to respect the fulfillment of the treaties ratified by that U.S. legislative body.

Government Not To Renew U.S. Housing Leases

PA1508212288 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 2027 GMT 15 Aug 88

[Text] Panama City—The Panamanian Government headed by Manuel Solis Palma will not renew housing leases for U.S. Armed Forces personnel stationed in the Panama Canal area.

Housing Minister Ricardo Bermudez said the national government will not renew leases between that ministry and U.S. military personnel in Panama because of the high amount owed, more than $800,000. He added that this high debt has resulted from an executive order issued by the Reagan administration, which prohibits all payments to Solis Palma's government by U.S. citizens and businesses.

In view of this situation, we have not renewed housing leases—which expire in September—to all those citizens of the U.S. Army, the housing minister said.

Arnulfo Arias' Funeral Accompanied by Protests

PA1508220388 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2118 GMT 15 Aug 88

[Excerpts] Panama City, 15 Aug (ACAN-EFE)—According to local observers, the largest crowd to have gathered in Panama in the past few years has turned today's funeral of three-time Panamanian President Arnulfo Arias into an antigovernment demonstration during which slogans, directed especially against General Manuel Antonio Noriega, were chanted.

Panama's capital city is practically paralyzed and deserted except for Espana Avenue, the site of Arias' funeral procession. Former President Arnulfo Arias passed away in Miami on Wednesday.

Tens of thousands of people of all races and social status—the opposition groups claim hundreds of thousands—lined Espana Avenue and filled practically all the balconies facing the avenue. They chanted slogans, one of which was "Arnulfo president, Noriega delinquent." [passage omitted]

The observers agree that the crowd that gathered to accompany Arias' remains to the cemetery, located 10 km from the cathedral, where the body of the Panamanian opposition leader—the most important leader of the past decades—laid in state, is the largest to gather in the past decades. [passage omitted]

Delvalle Sends Message

PA1608003488 Panama City Radio Noticias in Spanish 2350 GMT 15 Aug 88

["Manifesto to the Country" issued by Eric Arturo Delvalle on the occasion of the death of former Panamanian President Arnulfo Arias—date and place not given]

[Text] I share the grief of the Panamanian people on the death of Dr Arnulfo Arias. All Panamanians must pay the highest honor to the man who always identified

himself as a standard bearer of the struggle for our homeland's territorial integrity, independence, and sovereignty.

His absence is more deplorable today because he takes with him the irreplaceable moral strength we need to struggle for the recovery of the democratic institutions that are currently immersed in an unprecedented political, social, and moral crisis.

The best tribute we can offer to that illustrious man, who now ends a long journey of nationalistic battles, is for all those who want to reestablish the free democratic institutions we inherited from the founders of our homeland to become closely united.

Only a government of national reconciliation and unity born in a climate of respect for human rights can undertake the arduous task of the country's economic, social, moral, and political reconstruction.

That unity is not only necessary but urgent, because our country is facing threats. A group of U.S. congressmen is trying to deny the validity of the 1977 canal treaties.

To attain that unity, all of us must give up personal interests, and in honor of that goal, I offer my unconditional cooperation.

[Signed] Eric Arturo Delvalle

Briefs

New Ambassador to Israel

Yesterday Major Rodolfo Castrellon was sworn in as the new Panamanian ambassador to Israel during a ceremony at the Foreign Ministry. [Summary] [*PA1508180988 Panama City MATUTINO in Spanish 15 Aug 88 p 8*]

Argentina

Nigerian External Affairs Minister Arrives

PY1608024488 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 0210 GMT 16 Aug 88

[Text] Buenos Aires, 15 Aug (TELAM)—Tonight Nigerian External Affairs Minister Ike Nwachukwu arrived in Argentina on an official 2-day visit. During his stay in Argentina, Nwachukwu will hold meetings with President Raul Alfonsin and other officials.

At the airport, Nwachukwu was welcomed by Argentine Foreign Ministry officials who said that the African official is visiting Argentina to increase bilateral relations. Officials added that recently Argentine-Nigerian relations have experienced a strong impulse as a result of the bilateral exchange that is being promoted by the Argentine Embassy in Nigeria.

While in Argentina, Nwachukwu will also hold meetings with Foreign Minister Dante Caputo, who was not at the airport tonight because he is out of the country; and with the Armed Forces Chief of the Joint Staff, General Teodoro Waldner.

Upon his arrival Nwachukwu did not make any statement. He immediately left the international airport for Buenos Aires.

Reports of Nuclear-Powered Engine Denied

PY1508221488 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1530 GMT 15 Aug 88

[Text] Buenos Aires, 15 Aug (NA)—Today Balvino Zubiri, chairman of the Chamber of Deputies Defense Committee, stated that "I am not aware" of the construction of a compact nuclear-driven engine to be installed in a submarine.

In remarks to Radio Rivadavia, Zubiri stated that at least $1 billion would be necessary for such a project and that "that sum far surpasses" the Argentine budget.

However, today nuclear physicist Jose Federico Westerkamp said: "I suppose" that that engine is being built at the Applied Research Institute (INVAP) installation, which is controlled by the CNEA and the Rio Negro government.

Westerkamp explained that this engine is reportedly being financed by "secret Armed Forces' funds," and that "the National Border Police must also have" this type of account.

Reliable sources recalled that the last military government implemented this type of project. However, the project was suspended by the democratic government in 1983 due to, among other things, its cost.

During the Malvinas war, the Navy decided it needed a nuclear-driven engine due to the superiority of British atomic submarines during that war.

Last year Jorge Sabato, former vice foreign minister and current education minister, told the magazine SOMOS that Argentina would like to join the Brazilian project to build a nuclear-fueled submarine, a desire never addressed publicly. However, the two countries are engaged in an integration process.

Asked about a rumor that Argentina was building a compact engine for nuclear submarines, Zubiri stated: "Our country, in fact, has the technical ability to carry out projects of this type."

He added that "technologically highly-developed conventional weapons are being sold now."

"Argentina has highly-developed technology in this sector, but what that physicist is saying," he said ironically, "is a well-kept secret because I truthfully am not aware of it."

"And much less that a huge amount of money will be invested in this project, as reported," he said.

Zubiri added: "This does not mean that the report is incorrect, but I am totally unaware of any project of this nature."

When he was told that the investment would amount to $2 billion, he said that "this amount is not in keeping with our situation, especially at this moment."

Zubiri denied the existence of secret Armed Forces' funds. "At best, there can be military secrets as in any country in the world, but I do not believe that they include secret accounts."

Bolivia

Foreign Minister on U.S. Antidrug Funds

PY1608025288 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0055 GMT 16 Aug 88

[Excerpts] La Paz, 15 Aug (EFE)—Today Bolivian Foreign Minister Guillermo Bedregal Gutierrez stated that the U.S. Administration will not return to the U.S. Treasury the $71 million it has promised for the antinarcotics campaign in Bolivia during the 1988-89 period. [passage omitted]

"Bolivia has fulfilled its commitments, and now it is the United States who must fulfill its commitment," the foreign minister stated. Bedregal Gutierrez added that to fight drug trafficking, Bolivia needs some $300 million for repression and the substitution of the coca crops, in addition to the U.S. willingness to fight domestic consumption and the drug marketing mafia.

No Disbursement Date

PY1508153088 La Paz La Red Panamericana in Spanish 1130 GMT 15 Aug 88

[Text] The government is confident that the United States will provide about $8 million by September 1988. These funds are part of a U.S. commitment to Bolivia to contribute to a program for creating alternatives to coca plantations.

The United States has committed itself to Bolivian authorities to send the appropriate funds. However, no date has been set for providing these funds, which have been earmarked to support the rural development of the regions involved in the drive to replace the coca plantations.

Interior Mininster Juan Carlos Duran has said that Bolivia hopes that the commitments will be met so that the struggle against drug trafficking will not encounter any interference.

10 Cocaine Processing Centers Destroyed

PY1308022088 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0109 GMT 13 Aug 88

[Text] La Paz, 12 Aug (EFE)—Today the special antinarcotics force command reported that a total of 10 cocaine processing centers were destroyed in the past 12 days in different towns in Cochabamba Department. The source added that 79.53 kg of cocaine were also seized and that 19 coca maceration "pits" were destroyed in the districts of Cochabamba, Santa Cruz, and La Paz.

Ann Wrobleski, U.S. assistant secretary of state for international narcotics matters, was present at the burning of 22.5 kg of cocaine paste in the Chapare region, 400 km of La Paz.

The Bolivian authorities have stated that despite their technical and financial shortcomings they continue to fight drug trafficking and that the recent visit of Wrobleski and U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz to La Paz confirms the U.S. willingness to support the Bolivian Government's work.

Social Defense Deputy Minister Jorge Alderete has said that this year Washington only disbursed $8 million of the $79 million that was to be provided for the antinarcotics struggle, and he described this amount as "insufficient."

Armed Forces Suggest National Pact

PY1208151588 La Paz PRESENCIA in Spanish 8 Aug 88 pp 1, 10

[Quotation marks as published]

[Excerpts] Yesterday during a speech General Luis Rodriguez Bravo, the Bolivian Armed Forces commander in chief, said that the institutional system should be strengthened by a consolidated national pact, featuring the support of all political parties and social organizations.

This remark was made during a ceremony in commemoration of Armed Forces Day at the Army Military School. Rodriguez spoke of the need for "an extended truce during which the application of valid solutions and the possibility of overcoming the multiple problems of the nation may be achieved."

The ceremony was attended by President Victor Paz Estenssoro, Vice President Julio Garret Ayllon, several ministers, and high-ranking military commanders. Similar ceremonies, where military personnel took an oath of allegiance to and respect for the flag, took place at other military units in the country. [passage omitted]

"Our people, who at one time were trusting and optimistic, now live the daily dramatic impact of the frivolous attitude and cynical behavior of those same people who should promote national unity and who should look after the country's interests. Instead, those people earnestly seek benefits and political handouts for themselves and insult the humility, resignation, and restraint with which our citizenry accepts its share of sacrifices for the country, hoping to be able to overcome our social and economic problems.

"When the Armed Forces, with an open mind, shared, opened the way, and helped strengthen the democratic system as the most adequate and convenient system of government, all currents of opinion united to participate in the lasting peace and hard work necessary for the recovery and repair of the damages caused by the arbitrary and unwise use of public office.

"The strengthening of the principles of common good were enthusiastically and continuously praised. The implementation of long lasting programs to eliminate injustices and being able to look at the promising future with dignity, decency, and well-being were also exalted. [passage omitted]

"The first stage of the country's stabilization was surprisingly effective and spectacular. So much so that many inside and outside the country acclaimed it. Regrettably, this image was not sustained because the subtle poison of the leaders, and those who know nothing except how to criticize, prevented its gradual projection to other fields. The broadening of its consequences failed to reach the lower levels of society and failed to renew the people's capacity to create, to fight, to mobilize, and to attain better living conditions and evolve economically, socialy, and culturally.

"The lack of vision of the political leaders, or their ignorance of the Bolivian situation, nurtured and promoted a capricious and frontal opposition which prevented the implementation of a dialogue to confront the crisis. It also prevented the exchange of ideas to suggest solutions, to join forces, and to improve plans that could be useful to spark a reactivation of the economy and to be able to fight the source of social injustices and urgently reorganize the economy.

"Our country needs the implementation of efficient programs created under a new and innovative basis to obtain a better distribution of wealth and to provide our people with at least a minimal opportunity to enjoy material goods as allowed by the productivity of their jobs. It is necessary to find formulas for the generous participation of the largest possible number of experts, technicians, and scientists to ensure the implementation of programs that will favor our long-suffering community.

To fulfill these goals, Bolivia requires that its people agree to a political pact to allow for serious, harmonious, and well thought-out plans leading to the total recovery of the productive mechanisms. These plans should be entrusted to an administration that is healthy, honest, and capable of sacrifices, where different alternatives are carefully weighed and programs are applied in a trustworthy manner, subject "to a gentlemen's agreement, as opposed to a treatment characterized by fanaticism, plagarism, or passionate slogans, which up until now has only served to prevent a joint action of all parties involved and has scattered their valuable efforts. It is now necesssary to change these attitudes and join our efforts and strengthen our national values. [passage omitted]

"We also believe that the time has come to adjust and invigorate our institutional order, under modern criteria and according to our particular idiosyncracies. This will be possible if we begin promoting a national plan. This plan could be drafted by the School of Higher National Studies as an interesting initiative that could be used to introduce reforms and structural and organic modifications to our present system of government.

The implementation of a job of this importance, and the duty it implies, requires the selection of a group of citizens of great merit and individual capability. [passage omitted]

Official Going to U.S. To Receive IMF Resources
PY1308131588 La Paz La Red Panamericana in Spanish 1130 GMT 13 Aug 88

[Text] Planning Ministry Under Secretary Alfredo Candia will leave for Washington next week to receive resources from the IMF. The IMF reached an agreement with Bolivia for a system of disbursements that will be put into effect beginning next week.

Planning Minister Gonzalo Sanchez de Lozada feels that Candia's presence in Washington is important for the fulfillment of the agreements. He added that with these resources the country will be better able to fulfill commitments for payments and the reactivation program.

ECLA Expert on IMF, World Bank Recommendations
PY1208143788 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0441 GMT 12 Aug 88

[Text] La Paz, 11 Aug (EFE)—According to ECLA expert Armando di Filippo, the implementation of recommendations made by the IMF and the World Bank "profoundly affect and generate a regressive structural change" in Latin America countries.

The adjustments recommended by the IMF "often cause a large reduction in the levels of activity and productivity, which cause unemployment of workers and an interruption in the investments process," the Argentine expert stated in the conference "Bolivia and the International Economy."

Di Filippo added that "Latin America, as a peripheral region," represents at this moment 5 percent of international trade, and for this reason, it "does not receive the attention of the great capitalist centers."

Representatives from the Latin American Integration Association, the Latin American Economic System, and the Latin American and Caribbean Institute for Economic and Social Planning are participating in this conference, which will conclude tomorrow. The conference was organized by the Bolivian Foreign Ministry.

COB Stoppage To Protest Congressional Pay Hike
PY1308152488 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0448 GMT 12 Aug 88

[Text] La Paz, 12 Aug (EFE)—Today La Paz was paralyzed for 90 minutes in protest of Bolivian congressmen, who approved a 93-percent salary increase for themselves at a time when workers salaries are frozen.

The protest was organized by the COB. The group just sent a letter to Bolivian President Victor Paz Estenssoro voicing its concern over the unjust way salaries are being handled. The letter included a warning that this situation would create a tense atmosphere, and stoppages and demonstrations will not stop unless the situation is reversed.

Private and public transportation services were paralyzed during the 90-minute stoppage, between 1100 and 1230 local time. The streets were invaded by thousands of workers, students, and housewives of various social levels.

A similar measure was adopted last 19 July when it was learned that Congress was studying the possibility of increasing its salaries.

In its letter to the president, the COB stated that "the increase of the congressmen's salaries—after it was revealed that the government authorities have received extra pay since 1986—demonstrates that it is not true that the economic crisis affecting the country is shared by everyone, as government officials like to state."

According to the COB, the 90-minute stoppage was successfully observed nationwide and that, in some regions, it was even supported by policemen.

The latest salary increase granted to congressmen—mostly from the governing party—increase the legislators salary to an average of $2,500 per month, excluding expense accounts. Bolivian workers earn $60 a month.

However, opposition legislators have donated their salary increases for projects designed to cushion the situation of more than 90,000 miners and workers of factories that have ceased activities due to the economic crisis.

Opposition Protests Actions Against AQUI

PY1208164488 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0514 GMT 12 Aug 88

[Text] La Paz, 11 Aug (EFE)—Members of the opposition in the Chamber of Deputies today expressed, through a document sent to the executive branch, their disgust over the "acts of violence by the government against the premises of the weekly AQUI."

The text of the document expresses disgust over the acts of force against the weekly's premises and against several workers who were attacked in their homes.

The communique states: "We request that, in compliance with the Constitution, journalist Antonio Peredo Leigue, director of the weekly AQUI, be released."

Deputy Carlos Serrate Reich, head of the Revolutionary Vanguard Party, requested an oral report from Interior Minister Juan Carlos Duran on the raid against the weekly.

Serrate said that the interior minister will also have to account for the confiscation of a collection of newspapers and magazines, an archive of publications, documents, money, photographs, press articles, and other items, as well as the arrest of the magazine's personnel .

On 1 August the director and members of the leftist weekly AQUI's staff were arrested for having protested, 2 days before, using strong language on the front page of the magazine which reported that some Bolivian officials—including ministers—had received "extra pay" from international organizations and a foreign government.

Right now, only the AQUI director, who has assumed full responsibility, remains under "preventive custody."

All Bolivian media organizations have termed this arrest "illegal" because they maintain it violates the press law and the Constitution."

Brazil

Sarney Meets With Ministers To Cut Budget

PY1608011688 Rio de Janeiro Rede Globo Television in Portuguese 2255 GMT 15 Aug 88

[Excerpt] Today President Jose Sarney held a meeting with Finance and Planning Minister Mailson da Nobrega and Joao Baptista de Abreu, respectively, to discuss the new Brazilian budget for 1989.

A decision has already been made. Cuts in expenditures will reach 17 percent. This percentage corresponds to that which the Constituent Assembly intends to take from the federal government to transfer to the states and municipalities.

The budget cuts will reportedly amount to 1.3 trillion cruzados. The following proposals are still under study: the elimination of 14 federal organizations, and privatization of 7 state companies. Several officials will probably be laid off in these two cases.

The plan is to cut all subsidies included in the current budget. Investment funds will be the most affected by these cuts. All ministries will be affected, as well as the legislative and judicial branches. These cuts will hurt, but they are inevitable. The government does not want to give up the idea of reducing the public deficit next year.

Moreover, the new budget must be adjusted to the new constitution that will be promulgated in September. Today's meeting between President Sarney and government ministers is not the first nor will it be the last. [passage omitted]

Portugal's Soares Meets With Guimaraes

PY1608021988 Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 14 Aug 88 p 3

[Excerpts] Brasilia—Yesterday Deputy Ulysses Guimaraes, chairman of the Constituent Assembly and PMDB president, told Portugal's President Mario Soares during a half-hour meeting that the economic crisis is creating great anxiety among the Brazilian people, whose fate is in the hands of Finance Minister Mailson da Nobrega. Soares met with President Sarney the day before yesterday. Soares, who yesterday was in Rio de Janeiro, is equally convinced of the situation and of the finance minister's success. [passage omitted]

Guimaraes added that regardless of the efforts the government is making, it will not be able to solve the economic crisis alone and that it needs the support of society for this purpose. He added that the promulgation of the new constitution will positively help reduce the climate of national anxiety because it will establish the rules of the game and will create modern mechanisms for social development. [passage omitted]

Received by Rio Governor

PY1608023588 Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 14 Aug 88 p 16

[Text] Yesterday Rio de Janeiro Governor Moreira Franco received Portuguese President Mario Soares, with whom he had lunch at the Laranjeiras Palace. Mario Soares, who arrived in Rio de Janeiro at 1240 from Brasilia—he is on a private visit to Brazil—left for Lisbon at approximately 1900. As well as having lunch with Governor Franco, Soares held a meeting with

former Governor Leonel Brizola at the Portuguese Consulate in Botafogo neighborhood and visited architect Burle Marx' farm in Sepetiba.

During the time they spent together—just over 3 hours—the governor and the president did not sign any agreements or protocols. They discussed the country's political-financial situation and the repercussions of the Brazilian situation abroad. Governor Moreira invited a small group of people to the luncheon he gave to Soares. Among the invitees were Bahia Governor Waldir Pires; Senator Fernando Henrique Cardoso (Brasilian Social Democratic Party); journalist Roberto Marinho, president of GLOBO enterprises; as well as Brazilian and Portuguese businessmen, artists, and politicians.

Moreira Franco said that although Soares' visit was not official, it helped to increase economic relations between Rio de Janeiro state and Portugal in addition to the exchange of information on political experiences; the Portuguese experienced a similar process of establishing a Constituent Assembly. According to the governor, Brazil must follow the example respecting the legal democratic system.

The Portuguese president said that Brazil "will overcome the crisis with creativity and work," since it has inexhaustible resources. Regarding the new constitution, Soares said that he has learned that its text, in many aspects, is innovative and progressive in nature.

Colombia

Protests Filed Over Border Squirmishes

PA1208163888 Bogota Emisoras Caracol Network in Spanish 1215 GMT 12 Aug 88

[Text] Bogota—The Venezuelan Government has presented a formal protest to the Colombian Foreign Ministry over the incidents in Guainia, when the Venezuelan consul's vehicle was stoned while the authorities took no action to stop the attack. The protest comes 48 hours after Colombia filed its own protest over the incidents in the area, which began when a boat carrying three Colombians was machinegunned by Venezuelan military units in the Arauca River. Two people were killed in that incident.

Foreign Ministers Meet

PA1508040188 Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 0100 GMT 15 Aug 88

[Passages within quotation marks recorded]

[Text] A year ago we reported the incidents between Colombia and Venezuela in the Gulf of Coquibacoa [Gulf of Venezuela]. Tensions have decreased in the past 12 months, but conflicts have not been completely resolved.

There was a meeting held during the last few hours between the foreign ministers of both countries to discuss the border incidents.

Colombian Foreign Minister Julio Londono Paredes returned to the country without clear answers about the latest incidents on the Colombian-Venezuelan border. Londono spoke for 7 hours with his Venezuelan colleague, German Nava Carrillo.

[Londono] "Venezuelan authorities have given their version of the incidents in the Orinoco area and they are investigating the incidents that took place in Urena with some vehicles."

In less than 8 days, the Venezuelan-Colombian border has been the site of serious incidents between both countries. First, it was an incident in the Orinoco River area, where following an alleged attack by Venezuelan guardsmen, an Indian is still missing. Six days later, Venezuelan helicopters, without any apparent reason, fired on Colombian vehicles near San Antonio de Tachira. As always, both countries agreed to investigate and also agreed that these sort of incidents cannot be repeated.

[Londono] "Foreign Minister Nava Carrillo and I have agreed on the need for both countries to take every necessary effort to prevent these incidents from being repeated."

Following his long trip, Julio Londono said there are no official proposals to renew relations with Cuba. Despite mutual respect between both countries, the establishment of relations with the island is still far away.

[Londono] "For now, there are no plans to establish diplomatic relations between both countries."

During his trip, Foreign Minister Londono also worked with Group of Eight representatives on the agenda for next October's meeting [of Group of Eight presidents] in Punta del Este, Uruguay.

Army Commander Requests Investigation of Judges

PA1308125588 Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 6 Aug 88 p 13-A

[Article by Edgar Torres]

[Excerpts] Army Commander Oscar Botero Restrepo has made very grave charges against judges assigned to drug trafficking and terrorist cases.

In a note to Justice Minister Guillermo Plazas Alcid, the Army commander requested thorough investigations of the San Jose del Guaviare special judge, Esperanza Gallo, and a Bucaramanga special judge.

Very reliable sources close to the Attorney General's Office said Botero Restrepos' charges refer to the release of drug traffickers and alleged guerrillas. [passage omitted]

According to the information gathered by the Attorney General's Office, which is conducting an investigation, Judge Gallo lifted the order to confiscate a plane used by drug traffickers to transport cocaine to the United States and Europe. [passage omitted)

The same investigation questions the release of seven [as published] alleged FARC guerrillas detained by Nueva Granada Batallion troops at "Oilwell No 7" ["Poso Siete"], one of Ecopetrol's [Colombian Petroleum Enterprise] oil exploration centers near Barrancabermeja.

According to the same sources, detainees Alirio Molina Garcia, Wilfredo Salazar, Hernan Erazo, Boris Gonzalez, Luis Aquino Chavez, and Wilson Calderon were caught just as they were about to carry out a terrorist attack. [passage omitted]

Nevertheless, when the case came to the Bucaramanga Special Court, the officer in charge—his name was not given—reversed the decision and freed the accused.

Army Intelligence Uncovers EPL 'Terrorist Plan'
PA1408161488 Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 2 in Spanish 0000 GMT 12 Aug 88

[Report by Luis Felipe Gutierrez]

[Excerpts] Manizales—Colombian military intelligence has dismantled the urban network of the so-called Popular Liberation Army [EPL]. A very large terrorist plot in which the EPL planned to blow up the Ayacucho Battalion headquarters, the Manizales police station, the city's CAES [Anti-Extortion and Kidnapping Command] facilities, the DAS [Administrative Department of Security] facilities in Manizales, and several radio stations, was discovered by members of the Army's 8th Intelligence Brigade in Manizales.

The plan was discovered after 3 months of intelligence work and after a series of arrests was made and searches were conducted in various parts of the city following the abduction and murder of Hernan Londono.

The operation resulted in the confiscation of many weapons and ammunition, the dismantling of the EPL's communication network, and the arrest of 45 percent of the EPL column based in the coffee region.

In addition, Milton Patino Campo, commander of the EPL's Oscar William Calvo Front, and Ricardo Moyano, chief of the EPL suburban commando unit and of the Eugenio Marin Penaranda Urban Commando Unit, were arrested. Several lists containing the names of people for possible abduction were also confiscated as were detailed guidelines of each terrorist operation. [passage omitted]

Meanwhile, San Mateo Battalion troops clashed with EPL members near Mistrato. As a result of this clash, three guerrillas were killed and two soldiers were injured. [passage omitted]

Drugs, Political Violence Cause 25 Deaths
PA1508190088 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 1810 GMT 15 Aug 88

[Text] Bogota, 15 Aug (DPA)—At least 25 people have been murdered recently in troubled Colombian regions.

In Colombia's second largest city, Medellin, which has been affected by drug wars, 13 men and 1 woman were murdered in separate actions during the weekend.

In the river port of Barrancabermeja, which has been the site of intense politically motivated violence, six people were murdered in three separate actions. Two Colombian Petroleum Enterprise (ECOPETROL) labor union leaders, an ECOPETROL contractor, a married couple, and a minor were killed.

In another strife-torn region, the eastern department of Meta, four peasants were murdered by unidentified assailants on a farm in Vista Hermosa. In recent months, several peasants have been murdered by rightist paramilitary groups operating in that area.

In another troubled area of Colombia, the northwestern banana growing region of Uraba, Nelson Cardona Torres, a policeman, was shot to death near his station in Carepo, bringing this year's death toll of policemen to 66.

Liberal Party Proclaims Turbay 'Sole Leader'
PA1508164888 Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 1800 GMT 14 Aug 88

[Excerpt] The Liberal Party convention ended sooner than expected but without any great surprises. At the convention, affiliation with the Socialist International was approved, the proposal of popular consultation to select the presidential candidate was welcomed, and the party's sole leadership was left in the hands of former President Julio Cesar Turbay Ayala.

[Begin reporter recording] The Liberal Party convention did not vote on former President Turbay's designation as the party's sole leader but decided this by acclamation. This fact and the presence of Luis Carlos Galan in Cartagena were the most important events of the latest Liberal Party convention. [end recording]

For some, such as the newspaper EL ESPECTADOR, the acclamation of Turbay as the Liberal Party's sole leader is a step backward for the party. According to the paper, it is a compromise leadership, one that will simply maintain the status quo and that forgets the greatness of liberalism just to attract the greatest number of votes. [passage omitted]

Paraguay

Official Guests Arrive for Inauguration

PY1508135888 Asuncion EL DIARIO in Spanish 15 Aug 88 p 12

[Text] The Paraguayan Government has declared as official guests the foreign personalities who have arrived in the country to attend the ceremonies scheduled for today.

Pursuant to Decree No 29,722, the Paraguayan executive branch has declared Taiwanese Premier Yu Kuo-hua as an official guest of the Paraguayan Government.

Pursuant to Decree No 29,723, former ROK Prime Minister Kim Chung Yul, special envoy of the ROK president, has also been declared an official guest of the Paraguayan Government.

Pursuant to Decree No 29,724, RSA Constitutional Development and Planning Minister J.C. Heunis has also been declared an official guest.

Pursuant to Decree No 29,725, Brazilian Foreign Minister Dr Roberto Costa de Abreu Sodre has been declared an official guest of the Paraguayan Government.

Pursuant to Decree No 29,726, Hernan Hipolito Cornejo, the governor of the Argentine Province of Salta, has also been declared an official guest of the Paraguayan Government.

Cabinet Sworn In

PY1508152088 Asuncion Red Nacional de Television in Spanish 1310 GMT 15 Aug 88

[Excerpts] We are broadcasting directly from the Independence Room of the Palace of the Lopez, where the swearing in ceremony for the cabinet members of the president, Army General Alfredo Stroessner, will take place.

The nation's chief of state, Army General Alfredo Stroessner, who just a few moments ago took the constitutional oath before the national Congress, is now in this room.

Ladies and gentlemen: The government notary public official, Pedro Ortigoza Ortiz, will read the text of the executive branch's Decree No 1, which originated in the Interior Ministry. [passage omitted]

[Ortigoza] In the city of Asuncion, capital of the Republic of Paraguay, on 15 August 1988, I, Pedro Ortigoza Ortiz, government notary public, presented myself at the Independence Room of the Government Palace, where I found his excellency, the president of the Republic of Paraguay, Army General Alfredo Stroessner, in the company of their excellencies, the ministers of the executive branch who have been named through this Decree No 1 of 15 August.

In accordance with the attribution conferred on the president of the Republic in Article No 180, paragraph 7, of the national Constitution, which permits him to name the ministers of the executive branch, the president of the Republic of Paraguay decrees:

Article No 1: Dr Sabino Augusto Montanaro is hereby named interior minister.

Article No 2: Dr Rodney Elpidio Acevedo is hereby named foreign minister.

Article No 3: Quartermaster General Elvio Alonso Martino is hereby named finance minister.

Article No 4: Dr Carlos Antonio Ortiz Ramirez is hereby named education and worship minister.

Article No 5: Agronomist Hernando Bertoni is hereby named agriculture and livestock minister.

Article No 6: Dr Delfin Ugarte Centurion is hereby named industry and commerce minister.

Article No 7: Division General Juan Antonio Caceres, retired, is hereby named public works and communications minister.

Article No 8: Division General Gaspar German Martinez is hereby named defense minister.

Article 10: Dr Jose Eugenio Jacquet is hereby named justice and labor minister.

Article No 11: Dr Sabino Augusto Montanaro is hereby named acting minister without portfolio.

Article No 12: This decree will be witnessed by Interior Minister Sabino Augusto Montanaro.

Article No 13: The ministers will take the constitutional oath today at 0900.

Article No 14: Let it so be known, published, and delivered to the official registry.

Signed: Alfredo Stroessner, Sabino A. Montanaro

And, at 0900, the ministers took the constitutional oath before his excellency, the president. [passage omitted]

Liberal Party Criticizes Stroessner's New Term

PY1508235988 Asuncion HOY in Spanish
14 Aug 88 p 8

[Text] The Executive Board of the Liberal Party [PL] has issued an official statement on the inauguration of General Alfredo Stroessner for another presidential term; that is, for the 1988-93 period. The statement says that the PL deems it appropriate to state that it is "absolutely in disagreement with the constitutional amendment that made it possible for the president to perpetuate himself in office."

The statement adds that "the initiation of this new presidential term does not bring us any hope that the building of a truly democratic, pluralist fatherland will start during this period. We want a society in which all Paraguayan citizens, without exception, will have the same obligations and will enjoy the same rights."

The PL Executive Board also states that the Paraguayan people "do not expect to be liberated during this new term from the state of political, cultural, and socioeconomic oppression they have been suffering."

The document concludes by stating that "the people's skepticism stems from the fact that it will be the same regime that will continue in office and, therefore, instead of promoting democracy in our country, it will continue to intensify repression and to arbitrarily violate the union and social rights of the working class, as well as to further restrict the people's political rights."

'Lightning Rally' Held

PY1608003988 Asuncion EL DIARIO in Spanish
14 Aug 88 p 10

[Text] Yesterday several political organizations staged a lightning rally on the corner of 14 de Mayo and Eduardo Victor Haedo Streets to protest the imminent initiation of another presidential term for Alfredo Stroessner. No incidents occurred during the rally. Chanting slogans, throwing leaflets, and shooting off firecrackers, approximately 50 people stopped traffic for 10 minutes and held a brief meeting that was promoted by the National Coordinating Board for Free Elections.

Juan Arrom (Democratic Popular Movement) and Febrerista Revolutionary Party [PRF] youth leader Anibal Carrillo Iramain demanded that the state of law be restored.

The rally was attended by several Argentine, Uruguayan, and other Latin American congressmen who were attending an international seminar sponsored by the PRF, as well as by delegates of the International Federation of Liberal and Radical Youths [Federacion Internacional de Juventudes Liberales y Radicales] (IFLRY). After the rally, everyone entered La Encarnacion Church.

Febrerista Integration Seminar Concludes

PY1508190088 Asuncon HOY in Spanish
14 Aug 88 p 8

[Text] The international seminar called "Democracy and Integration," sponsored by the Febrerista Revolutionary Party (PRF) with the cooperation of the National Accord (AN), ended on 13 August. The seminar had begun on 11 August with the participation of deputies, councilmen, students, and union leaders from Argentina, Brazil and Uruguay.

On the closing day, 13 August, Claudio Diaz, president of the FUA [Argentine University Federation]; Daniel Pavisich, FUA secretary general; Alberto Arguello, FUA union secretary; Argentine lawmaker Luis Leon; Justicialist Party deputy Jose Carlos Ramos; Argentine lawmaker Antonio Berhongaray; Uruguayan Deputy Daniel Lamas; Uruguayan Deputy Yamandu Fay; and others made speeches on the following issues: "University, Democracy, and Integration," "Regional Integration Experiences," and "Ways To Integrate Latin America."

Luis Alonso, assistant secretary of the PRF's Relations and Information Department, stated that the establishment of a permanent forum to discuss democracy and integration was among the decisions made at the seminar. "The AN, with the support of the brotherly parties from neighboring countries, will organize this forum."

Alonso said that it was also decided to send an AN delegation to the Latin American parliamentary meeting to be held in Buenos Aires on 23 August. He added that during this meeting, the AN delegation "will request Latin American congressmen to ignore, criticize, and reject the presence of the so-called Stroessner congressmen because they do not represent the Paraguayan people."

He concluded by saying it was agreed that bilateral contacts would be made between representatives of the Paraguayan University Federation and those of the FUA "to create a Southern Cone university federation coordinating board."

Perez Esquivel Barred

PY1208134588 Asuncion HOY in Spanish
12 Aug 88 p 7

[Excerpt] Yesterday Immigrations Department agents, subordinate to the Interior Ministry, prevented Argentine Adolfo Perez Esquivel, a Nobel Prize winner, from entering the country. Perez Esquivel tried to cross the border through the international bridge linking Puerto Falcon and Clorinda to participate in an international seminar called "Democracy and Integration," organized jointly by the Febrerista Revolutionary Party and the National Accord. This political-cultural seminar began yesterday, and Perez Esquivel was to have been one of the speakers.

In an interview granted to Radio Caritas from Clorinda shortly after he was prevented from entering the country, Perez Esquivel said that unfortunately he was able to confirm that in this country, "the policy of restrictions still prevails." He added that his commitment to the defense of human rights "stems from an essential commitment of giving support to the poor and the needy." [passage omitted]

Peru

Garcia Threatens Miners With State of Emergency

PY1508183088 Lima Television Peruana in Spanish 0100 GMT 15 Aug 88

[Report on news conference held by President Alan Garcia with unidentified reporters during a visit to the Ventanilla housing project in Lima on 14 August]

[Excerpts] The president of the Republic, Dr Alan Garcia Perez, has announced that at any moment the labor minister can declare the mining sector to be in a state of emergency. Garcia also denounced the political extremists who seek to harm the country by maintaining an unjustified strike.

Speaking about the labor problems in the mining sector, the head of state said that important and unprecedented steps have been taken in social law, including, among other benefits, provisions for the retirement of 45-year-old open pit [as heard] mineworkers and salary adjustments based on inflation. These benefits were implemented because of the perception that the mining sector was socially backward.

The president of the Republic also commented on the (Camisea) gas project.

[Begin recording] [Garcia] We have taken unprecedented steps in Latin American social law. Such steps have not even been taken in Europe, which has made substantial social achievements. It is an event unprecedented in international labor law, in social law, for a 45-year-old gallery mineworker to be able to retire and for 50-year-old open pit mineworkers at the largest and most sophisticated mines to be able to retire after working for only 10 years in direct extractive activities. We have implemented this program because of our belief that the mining sector was socially backward. We have implemented this program because we believe that to work in a gallery at 3,000 or 4,000 meters above sea level deserves social recognition, especially because the country's development has often been based on mining.

We have issued a supreme decree establishing a permanent salary adjustment based on inflation. These two basic achievements should inspire good will among the miners on strike.

I regret to say, however, that despite our considerable social and economic progress, there is a clear political motivation for the strike. The strike is intended is to strangle the country by depriving it of its foreign currency and reserves. The miners are trying to aggravate the economic problems, and extremists are sponsoring them. Miners are being promoted and guided completely by childish radical parties who only seek to destroy our country to impose God-only-knows what kind of a dictatorship, allegedly in the name of the workers. However, the extremists really intend to impose dictatorships in the name of certain groups. These groups rally want to end our freedom by taking advantage of an economic problem. [passage omitted]

The strike is being maintained for radical political reasons and by the internal conflicts inside the extremist parties.

[Reporter] What will be done about this situation, Mr President?

[Garcia] I think that the Labor Ministry, the Economy Ministry, and the whole country will—at any moment—declare the mining sector to be in a state of emergency. The mines belong to all Peruvians. They belong to you, to me, and to all Peruvians. They do not belong to the mine owners or to the miners. We need those minerals to finance our national development. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Gonzalez on Foreign Policy, Debt, Palestinians

PY1208153888 Lima EL COMERCIO in Spanish 7 Aug 88 p A-4

[Text] During an interview granted to EL COMERCIO, Foreign Minister Luis Gonzales Posada said that the Peruvian Government's foreign policy is based on Articles Nos 88 and 100 of the Constitution. According to Article No 88, "the state rejects any form of imposition, colonialism, or racism. It expresses solidarity with the oppressed people of the world."

According to Article No 100, "Peru promotes economic, political, social, and cultural integration of the Latin American nations with the purpose of establishing a Latin American community of nations."

[Question] Aside from the rhetoric aspects, how are these principles applied in practice?

[Answer] The articles of the Constitution were approved by the consensus of the Constituent Assembly and they reflect the traditional attitude of the Peruvian Foreign Ministry. They are not isolated attitudes. The Peruvian Government maintains a solid stance within the Nonaligned Movement and this is why Lima hosted the meeting of the Africa Fund.

A month ago President Alan Garcia summoned, in Lima, the first meeting for Latin American unity, which was attended by all organizations involved in the integration process such as the ECLA, ALADI, SELA, the Andean Reserves Fund (FAR), and the Latin American Parliament. It was a very important event during which we discussed, and then approved, a declaration, the first in history, where we noted the need to unite regarding common issues.

[Question] What, in your opinion, are the crucial issues?

[Answer] The foreign debt, the transfer of resources, the deterioration of the terms of exchange, and access to the various markets. The need for integration is great in order to increase trade among our countries by at least a 40 percent by the end of the decade. This would mean recovering the exchange level that prevailed during 1980.

[Question] Is any progress being made in this regard?

[Answer] Peru, acknowledging the proposal made by President Alan Garcia, has increased its imports from Latin American countries from 13 percent in 1985 to 24 percent in 1987. It is not a matter of just talking; we are actually doing something.

[Question] Is the Latin American foreign debt a common political problem?

[Answer] The joint Latin American foreign debt amounts to over $400 billion.

All Latin American countries need all their resources for development programs. Therefore, the foreign debt represents a political problem where creditors and debtors are correspondents and should promote a pragmatic dialogue.

In 1970, the service of the foreign debt represented 21 percent of Latin American exports and now it amounts to 46 percent. During the 1982-87 period, Latin America received loans and investments amounting to $59 billion. But during that same transitory period the foreign debt service and interest amounted to $205 billion. We have become the exporters of capital that amounts to $141 billion.

[Question] Has no country requested the extradition of the Palestinian terrorists?

[Answer] Officially, no country has done so.

[Question] Are they dangerous?

[Answer] Highly dangerous.

[Question] Will they be expelled from the country?

[Answer] No. They will be tried here.

[Question] What about the Dreyfus contract?

[Answer] No such agreement has been signed. If there is interest, an international public bid will be called to obtain the best offer.

[Question] Asia offers great trade possibilities. What does the Foreign Ministry have to say about this?

[Answer] A delegation of 20 businessmen of ADEX [Exporters Association] will travel to that continent next week to open the Asian markets.

[Question] Italian Deputy Foreign Minister Susan Agnelli will visit Lima shortly; on that occasion, we will sign a protocol of understanding for the 1989-91 Peruvian-Italian Cooperation Agreement. It is a very important project that will turn Lima into a modern metropolis. How much does this agreement amout to?

[Answer] It amounts to $330 million, of which 40 percent will be donated and the remaining portion payable in 20 years, with a 10-year grace period at a 15-percent annual interest. Of this program, $122 million will be earmarked for the Lima electric railroad.

[Question] What is your opinion on the rally organized by the Popular Action?

[Answer] President Belaunde is a respected politician. He is a true democrat. He respects liberty and has a well-defined stance regarding terrorism. Any invitation made by someone who has twice been president of the Republic is bound to be acknowledged. We welcome this new rally which shows that democracy, political pluralism, and the free exchange of ideas and proposals among democrats are fully in force.

Interior Minister on Meeting UK Under Secretary

PY1608024888 Lima Television Peruana in Spanish 0100 GMT 16 Aug 88

[Interview with Interior Minister Juan Soria by unidentified reporter; date, place not given—recorded]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] [Reporter] Can you tell us about the visit of the British under secretary for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs to the Peruvian drug trafficking region?

[Soria] I met with the British under secretary on 12 August, and we held a frank and long conversation. We are currently receiving effective and good help from the United Kingdom in the repression of drug trafficking in Peru.

I cannot tell you about his visit to the Huallaga region because I did not see him after that tour. I suppose it must have been a positive visit and he must have seen with his own eyes, as we say, the serious problems of that region.

OAS Secretary General Arrives for 6-Day Visit

PY1308034488 Lima Televisora Peruana in Spanish 0100 GMT 13 Aug 88

[Excerpts] This afternoon OAS Secretary General Joao Clemente Baena Soares arrived in Lima from Ecuador for a 6-day official visit.

During the visit, Baena Soares will meet with President Alan Garcia. [passage omitted]

Baena Soares will also meet with Foreign Minister Luis Gonzalez Posada, and on 15 August he will deliver a lecture on the Latin American peace process at the Center of International Studies [word indistinct].

Spanish Deputy Prime Minister Arrives

PY1208223288 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1722 GMT 12 Aug 88

[Excerpt] Lima, 12 Aug (EFE)—Today Spanish Deputy Prime Minister Alfonso Guerra arrived in Lima on a 24-hour private visit. He is scheduled to receive an honorary degree from the Federico Villareal University.

The Spanish deputy prime minister, who came from Quito, where he attended the presidential inauguration ceremony, arrived at Air Force Group No 8 airport in Callao, the port of Lima.

Alfonso Guerra's entourage includes Luis Ynez, the secretary of state for cooperation, and other officials.

The Spanish Air Force plane transporting Guerra and his entourage landed at 1040 local time (1540 GMT).

The Spanish deputy prime minister was met by Peruvian Foreign Minister Luis Gonzalez Posada, Spanish Ambassador to Peru Nabor Garcia Garcia, and the rector of the Federico Villareal University, Luis Cotillo. [passage omitted]

Cocaine Seized, Processing Centers Destroyed

PY1508184488 Lima Television Peruana in Spanish 0100 GMT 15 Aug 88

[Text] More than 1,000 kg of cocaine paste was seized and three narcotics processing centers were destroyed during the successful "Condor-7" operation in Alto Huallaga. The police operation was carried out in three different towns simultaneously in the Peruvian jungle.

Three narcotics processing centers were destroyed with dynamite, and 1,084 kg of cocaine paste were seized during swift police raids in several towns in Alto Huallaga as part of the "Condor-7" antinarcotics operation.

The raids, carried out by personnel of the 64th Civil Guard Precinct, headquartered in Tingo Maria, were supported by three police helicopters. The raids were carried out simultaneously in the towns of (Morada), (Cholon), Ramal, and (Apusana).

The processing centers that were destroyed refined the cocaine paste before sending it to Colombia and Brazil to be processed into cocaine hydrocloride.

In addition to the 1,000 kg of cocaine paste, the Civil Guard antinarcotics personnel seized 600 kg of cocaine sulfate, 300 gallons of gasoline, 200 kg of ammonia, and other components in the processing centers.

Nilton Broncano Marcos, who possessed a large amount of cocaine, was captured during this successful operation.

Later, 777 square meters of coca plantations were destroyed.

Drug Traffickers Arrested With DEA Weapons

PY1508162888 Buenos Aires DYN in Spanish 2234 GMT 15 Aug 88

[Excerpts] Lima, 14 Aug (AFP)—Today it was reported that yesterday the Peruvian police confiscated weapons belonging to the DEA, a U.S. organization engaged in the fight against drug trafficking. The arms were in the possession of three members of an international criminal group called the Green Leaf. [passage omitted]

After an intense shoot-out in the Ate-Vitarte district of Lima, personnel of the Anti-Terrorist Directorate have arrested [name indistinct] Reyes, 44; Carlos Alonso Rivera, 39; and Guillermo Zevallos, 36. They have been charged with drug trafficking.

The police caught the drug traffickers selling drugs on the street in broad daylight. Police confiscated two U.S.-made 45 caliber automatic pistols bearing the DEA acronym and 6 kg of cocaine hydrochloride worth $500,000.

Grave of Cayara Peasants Reportedly Found

PY1408015688 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1736 GMT 13 Aug 88

[Text] Lima, 13 Aug (EFE)—The newspaper LA REPUBLICA reported that today the remains of peasants allegedly killed by the military on 14 May in the village of Cayara, in the southern Ayacucho Department, were found in a common grave near the village.

The newspaper says that Cayara's peasants have reported the discovery of the common grave to prosecutor Carlos Escobar, who is investigating the murders in Cayara.

According to the newspaper, the Cayara peasants were apparently buried in the common grave. Some of them have been already identified through information provided by the peasants' relatives or documents found in their clothes.

The newspaper states that the location of the grave, the names of those who found it, and the number of bodies have not been disclosed. What is certain is that the bodies are those of the victims of Cayara.

The peasants had already reported that military men removed the bodies from their first burial site and carried them away in trucks. Reliable sources say that 28 people were murdered.

The newspapers report that the peasants were tortured and then shot. The killing was reported by Cayara's peasants, but the investigation was suspended because the bodies were not found.

On 13 May, Shining Path terrorists attacked a military column approximately 5 km from Cayara. A captain, a sergeant, and 2 corporals were killed, and 15 soldiers were wounded during the attack.

On 14 May, a group of soldiers arrived in Cayara—where the terrorists had apparently headed—and killed an unspecified number of peasants.

The newspaper LA REPUBLICA has requested the Interior Ministry to provide protection for prosecutor Carlos Escobar "in order to protect his life."

Policeman Dies, Another Injured in Attack
PY1508133488 Lima Domestic Service in Spanish 1200 GMT 15 Aug 88

[Text] Yesterday one policeman died and another was injured during a terrorist attack against a Republican Guard detachment posted at the National Telecommunications Enterprise of Peru in Pucallpa, Uyacali Department.

The attack occurred yesterday at approximately 1600 in the afternoon. The dead policeman was identified as Republican Guard Corporal David Mansanares Segarra. Second Sergeant Eduardo Marmanillo Coser was seriously injured.

Uruguay

Sanguinetti Returns; To Visit Cuba, Portugal
PY1208132088 Montevideo Radio Carve in Spanish 1000 GMT 12 Aug 88

[Text] President Julio Maria Sanguinetti has returned from Quito and today will reassume his presidential duties.

In Quito Sanguinetti stated that the Uruguayan foreign policy is based on understandings and rapprochement with all governments, promoting meetings and talks at the international level.

The Uruguayan president, who early this morning returned to Montevideo, stated that the mature Uruguayan foreign policy reveals a desire for talks with all governments and that these talks are always useful.

In Quito, the Uruguayan president met with Fidel Castro and Daniel Ortega. He called these meetings cordial and frank exchanges of opinions. We talked about our differences and about possible areas of cooperation, seeking what is most essential for us all. We seek a policy of peaceful coexistence with all governments, whether or not they belong to the same system of government, he said.

This morning's newspaper EL PAIS reported that President Sanguinetti has accepted invitations from Fidel Castro and from Mario Soares to visit Cuba and Portugal, respectively. The date for these visits have not yet been set. The Uruguayan president has reportedly invited the Portuguese president to visit Uruguay. This invitation was also accepted.

Tupamaros Ask To Join Broad Front; PDC Opposed
PY1308171488 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0850 GMT 13 Aug 88

[By Alberto Pepe Leira]

[Text] Montevideo, 13 Aug (EFE)—The request by the former guerrilla "Tupamaros" movement to enter into the leftist coalition Broad Front, the third largest political force in Uruguay, has created a new rift in the left and is threatening to provoke the Christian Democratic party [PDC] to split from the coalition, just 15 months before the elections.

The PDC, who along with the Communist and Socialist Parties and 12 other political groups founded the Broad Front in 1971, is opposed to accepting the "Tupamaros," who now operate openly, into the coalition.

The PDC is using its veto right, which each coalition member has, to oppose the "Tupamaros'" entry.

The other political parties have said they agree to the "Tupamaros'" entry. This puts the PDC in an "uncomfortable situation."

The PDC leadership has admitted to the press that the party would leave the Front if the other groups decide to accept the "Tupamaros" into the coalition, adding that the party has "reservations" about the future activity of the former guerrilla movement because they have not explicitly renounced the eventual use of the armed struggle.

The "Tupamaros" have recognized that Uruguay's present reality is not the same as in the 1960's, when they resorted to the armed struggle against what they considered to be President Jorge Pacheco Areco's "authoritarian government."

The guerrilla movement was defeated by the Armed Forces in 1972. The Armed Forces, in turn, staged a coup d'etat a year later, and on 27 June 1973 then President Juan Maria Bordaberry decreed the dissolution of Congress.

In March 1985, a law granted amnesty to the guerrillas and allowed those "Tupamaros" still in jail to be released, including its "historic leaders" led by Raul Sendic Antonacio.

Yesterday PDC President Deputy Hector Lescano said "the situation is not very comfortable because the 'Tupamaros' are accepted by the majority. We have very clear reservations from the historical point of view. Many doubts still persist."

Lescano admitted "there is something new about the internal situation of the Front because, with the exception of the Christian Democrats, the other groups favor the incorporation of the Tupamaros. We do not feel very comfortable vetoing the decision of the other parties."

The possible entry of the "Tupamaros" into the Front comes in addition to other internal problems that arose 3 months ago when the head of the Party for the Government of the People (PGP), Hugo Batalla, successor of assassinated senator Zelmar Michelini, voiced his disagreements with the Front's organization.

The differences between the PGP and the Marxist sectors have forced the former to jump to the fore in demanding respect by the militants, who are controled by the Communist Party and its allies, for the demands of the moderate sectors.

Venezuela

Acting Foreign Minister on Border Incidents

PA1308021088 Caracas Venezolana de Television in Spanish 0000 GMT 13 Aug 88

[Text] Venezuela is not satisfied with Colombia's reply regarding the events in the Orinoco River area this past weekend. In addition, Venezuelan Acting Foreign Minister Horacio Arteaga has said that the Venezuelan Government has requested compensation for the damage caused to the Venezuelan consulate at Puerto Inirida, which borders Amazonas Territory. The minister also asked for greater protection for Venezuelan diplomatic representatives in Colombia and denied that the Colombian-Venezuelan border has been closed.

The Venezuelan Foreign Ministry also denied that Colombian Foreign Minister Julio Londono will come to Venezuela on an official visit Sunday. It has been reported that Londono will land in Venezuela during a stopover on his return trip from Brasilia, where the foreign ministers of the Group of the Eight are now meeting.

[Begin recording] [Arteaga] We try to protect our country's interests, which are determined by our understanding of what our border relations with Colombia are.

[Reporter] What is the current status of Colombia-Venezuela relations?

[Arteaga] There have always been good relations between the two countries. Our government is willing to have good relations with the Colombian Government, based on cooperation, solidarity, and friendship between the two countries. We think these good relations should not be allowed to be damaged by incidents like the one at the border several days ago. We hope these regrettable incidents will not occur again and that friendship between our two countries will prevail. [end recording]